



To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IV.E.

From: Scott H. Neal, City Manager

Action ☒

Discussion ☐

Date: June 2, 2015

Information ☐

Subject: Approve Allocation of Future Park Improvement Funds To Park Signage Improvement Project

Action Requested:

Motion to allocate future Park Improvement Funds received from the Continental Gardens Project to the Park Signage Improvement Project

Information / Background:

In 2014 the City Council approved a development plan and subdivision request that created the Continental Gardens 100 unit housing project. Because the project required subdivision, the owner of the new development will pay the City a Park Improvement Fund payment of \$500,000 (\$5,000/unit). The request before the Council seeks your action to allocate this money to a defined purpose. That purpose is to remove, replace and improve every municipal park and recreational facility sign in the City.

There is not much disagreement that our park signs must be replaced. There are approximately 40 signs that would be included in this project. Many are wood and have reached the end of their useful life. Replacing these signs will require attention to detail and design, and of course budget. Signage is expensive. At the May 19 Council meeting, the Council approved a new electronic sign for Braemar Golf Course for a cost of over \$40,000. That signage is larger and more elaborate than what we will likely put in our parks, but it should give you a sense of the potential overall expense of this initiative.

I am recommending that Council approve the allocation of the Park Improvement Funds from the Continental Gardens project for this purpose because there is no other source of budgeted or expected funds available for this project. Funds are not allocated in the current Capital Improvement Plan for this purpose, nor are they likely to be in future CIPs, because money for signage will always be prioritized lower than money for more tangible brick & mortar projects.

The City anticipates receiving the \$500,000 Park Improvement Fund fee for the Continental Gardens project sometime this summer. The fee must be paid at the same time it receives its building permit. We anticipate that will be very soon. City staff did not anticipate this fee during our most recent CIP process. It is not included in any City budget or allocated for any particular purpose at this time. If the Council approves this request, staff will create a new Park Signage Improvement Project budget funded by the \$500,000 fee and prepare to launch the project, which will include substantial design consultation with Park Board and City Council, in 2016.